

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A balloon catheter for performing an angioplasty
procedure on a lesion in a vessel comprising a flexible
elongate catheter shaft having proximal and distal
extremities. A balloon is secured to the distal extremity
of the catheter shaft and has an outer surface extending
between proximal and distal extremities of the balloon. A
flexible elongate element is provided which extends over the
outer surface of the balloon. The flexible elongate element
10 has proximal and distal extremities which are secured about
the catheter shaft in positions spaced longitudinally away
from the outer surface of the balloon to permit expansion of
the balloon and to cause movement of the flexible elongate
element into engagement with the lesion to form a
15 longitudinal channel in the lesion.

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